

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 FEAE-00 DRC-01 ( ISO ) W  
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R 121030Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2762

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0542

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EGEN AO PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE ECONOMY - IMPORTANCE OF COLONIES

1. ACCORDING TO WELL-PLACED ANGOLAN MESTIZO LEADER WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VISIT TO LISBON, GOP HAS MADE CRASH STUDY OF POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PORTUGUESE ECONOMY OF EARLY SEVERENCE OF TIES WITH COLONIES. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, MAIN CONCLUSION OF STUDY IS THAT PORTUGAL CANNOT IN THE SHORT TERM SURVIVE LOSING INCOME FROM ANGOLA, ALTHOUGH DIVESTING ITSELF OF GUINEA AND MOZAMBIQUE WOULD BE CLEAR BLESSING TO METROPOLE.

2. SOURCE INTERPRETS THIS FINDING AS INDICATION GOP WILL HAVE TO RE-EXAMINE EARLIER PUBLICLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW ANGOLA TO ACHIEVE COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE - I.E., AS RESULT OF FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM. HE SEES DILEMMA THAT THIS DISCOVERY HAS POSED FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS ONE OF CHIEF FACTORS IN THE CURRENT LISBON CABINET CRISIS, WHICH ACCORDING TO PREVALENT VIEW HERE RESULTS NOT SO MUCH FROM CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION BUT RATHER FROM DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN CABINET OVER ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR METROPOLE.

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3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF ANY SUCH STUDY.  
IN PAST, ABSENCE OF RELIABLE STATISTICS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING  
REAL VALUE TO METROPOLE OF SUCH ANGOLAN EXPORTS AS DIAMONDS,  
PETROLEUM AND IRON ORE, ALWAYS BLOCKED RELIABLE ASSESSMENTS OF  
ANGOLA'S CONTRIBUTION TO, AS OPPOSED TO DRAIN ON, PORTUGAL'S  
ECONOMY. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF COURSE THAT FOREGOING REPORT  
MAY BE FICTITIOUS. OUR SOURCE SHARES WIDESPREAD VIEW HERE THAT  
ANGOLA'S VALUE TO METROPOLE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO PORTUGAL'S SURVIVAL,  
AT LEAST FOR "NEXT FEW YEARS."  
BRIGGS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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